

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 03359 021156Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W

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R 021000Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8854

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 3359

FOR CU - ASST SECRETARY RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, BM

SUBJECT: CULTURAL EXCHA

QE PROGRAM

1. I AM INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THE APPARENT POSSIBILITY THAT OUR BARELY REVIVED EXCHANGE PROGRAM MAY BECOME A BUDGET CASUALTY. I KNOW YOU MUST BE RECEIVING SIMILAR CRIES OF ALARM FROM OTHER POSTS TOO; BUT RANGOON'S PROGRAM IS AT A PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE STAGE. WE HAVE MANAGED TO ESTABLISH A BEACHEAD AFTER 12 YEAR HIATUS, AND A LOSS OF MOMENTUM NOW COULD BE CRUCIAL.

2. SMALL THOUGH IT IS, OUR PROGRAM WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE EACH GRANT COUNT, FOCUSING ON FIELD OF EDUCATION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MULTIPLIER POTENTIAL. HAVING ALREADY POSTPONED VISIT ONE EDUCATIONAL TEAM AND FOUR STUDENTS TO FY'76, ADDITIONAL ELIMINATION SECOND EDUCATIONAL TEAM OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE WOULD AMOUNT TO CANCELLATION OF FY'75 MINED PROGRAM, SERIOUSLY ENDANGERING OUR CREDIBILITY WITH THIS KEY MINISTRY AND DAMPENING THE SUPPORT WE HAVE HITHERTO BEEN ABLE TO COUNT ON AMONG MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

3. I STRONGLY URGE RETENTION THESE TWO EDUCATIONAL COMMITMENTS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. WE ARE MUCH LESS INTERESTED IN AMERICANS COMING TO BURMA AT THIS STAGE.

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PRESENT PRIORITY SHOULD PROPERLY BE ON GETTING BURMESE

TO U.S. WHICH WOULD PROVIDE MOST EFFECTIVE MOTIVATION FOR
OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION, INCLUDING REOPENING THE DOOR
TO AMERICAN SCHOLARS HERE.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

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